

N.Y. ATTORNEY IS IN CUBA FOR RANSOM TALKS

Hopes to Arrange for Invaders' Release

HAVANA, Cuba, Aug. 30

(UPI) — James B. Donovan, New York attorney who hopes to obtain the release of 1,113 Cuban invasion prisoners, arrived today to open negotiations, but Premier Fidel Castro did not send anyone to the airport to welcome him.

Only security police and the liaison representative of the Cuban prisoners' families committee, Mrs. Berta Barreto, were on hand when the American lawyer landed after a flight from Miami.

The cool reception was viewed by some observers as an indication that Donovan's negotiations will be kept on a very formal level by Cuban authorities.

Ransom on Each

Whether he will have the opportunity to deal directly with Castro is uncertain. The premier has set a ransom price tag on each of the 1,113 prisoners here and 60 others permitted to go to the United States last April for medical treatment.

The individual fines range from \$25,000 to \$500,000. Only 6 of the 1,179 prisoners put up for ransom have had their indemnity paid and been released unconditionally so far.

Castro fixed the collective ransom for all prisoners at 62 million dollars. A total of 1,184 prisoners were taken in the abortive April, 1961, invasion. Five of them were executed by firing squads.

Press Is Excluded

Representatives of the foreign press were not permitted to talk or photograph Donovan or members of his party at the airport. He was accompanied by Alyaro Sanchez Jr., chairman of the committee in the United States, and Ernesto Freyre, committee secretary.

Both Sanchez and Freyre have sons among the prisoners. one from the foreign ministry

and another from the government newspaper Revolution — and a reporter from the Cuban news service Prensa Latina were permitted to take pictures and talk to the Donovan party.

The New York attorney, who negotiated with the Soviet Union to exchange U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers for a Russian spy, Col. Rudolf I. Abel, came here with the consent of the Cuban government and with the approval of the American state department only six days after his passport was validated for the trip.

He has not spelled out the terms he offered to the Castro government for the prisoners but his plan apparently is based, at least in part, on persuading Cuban authorities to accept food and medical supplies instead of cash.

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